

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O

For Release:
February 24, 2005

Contact: Angela de Rocha
(202) 224-5944
Stephen Myers
(202) 224-6207

SENATOR ALLARD URGES JAPAN TO OPEN BORDERS TO U.S. BEEF

19 OTHER SENATORS JOIN ALLARD IN LETTER
HIGHLIGHTING SAFETY OF AMERICAN BEEF

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado), joined by 19 other senators, sent a letter to the Ambassador of Japan urging a swift end to the Japanese embargo on U.S. beef. The letter was hand-delivered to the ambassador on February 23rd by Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns.

“In 2003, U.S. exports of beef to Japan totaled over a billion dollars,” Senator Allard said. “It is unfortunate that a single case of BSE has closed an entire market to America’s agriculture industry.”

“Since the solitary case of BSE was discovered in December of 2003, the U.S. government has worked diligently to take the necessary steps to earn the confidence of the Japanese public, in many respects exceeding internationally established scientific requirements,” added Senator Allard.

“Closure of the Japanese market has resulted in hardship for entire industries and communities,” Senator Allard said. “America has acted in good faith to meet Japan’s concerns. If the government of Japan does not act soon to lift these sanctions, then the U.S. Congress may pursue retaliatory actions. It is my hope this situation can be avoided.”

U.S. Senators Ben Nelson (D-Nebraska), Pat Roberts (R-Kansas), Ken Salazar (D-Colorado), Jim Talent (R-Missouri), Larry Craig (R-Idaho), Kit Bond (R-Missouri), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Johnny Isakson (R-Georgia), Chuck Hagel (R-Nebraska), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), Gordon Smith (R-Oregon), George Voinovich (R-Ohio), Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), John Thune (R-South Dakota), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), Max Baucus (D-Montana), James Inhofe (R-Oklahoma) and Pete Domenici (R-New Mexico) co-signed the letter.

###